

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 01397 231005Z POSS DUPE
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2947

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1397

FOR AF/I: SLEZAK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SG
SUBJECT: AALC STAFF CONFERENCE

REF: SLEZAK LETTER OF FEBRUARY 7

1. AALC'S PROGRAM IN DAKAR HAS IN PAST BEEN FOCUSED ON EFFICIENT TAILORING AND CUTTING INSTITUTE WHICH HAS NOW BEEN TURNED OVER TO SENEGALESE DIRECTION. PROTRACTED LEADERSHIP CRISIS IN PRINCIPAL LABOR CENTRAL, NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF SENEGALESE WORKERS (CNTS), MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE AND INADVISABLE TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY ON MAJOR NEW PROJECTS PENDING END TO INTERNAL LABOR TURMOIL, AND AALC PRESENCE HAS ACCORDINGLY BEEN LOW PROFILE.

2. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED IN DAKAR A-14, ASSIGNMENT LAST FALL OF DYNAMIC AND EXCEEDINGLY WELL INFORMED AALC REPRESENTATIVE, GEORGE MARTENS, HAS FORTUITOUSLY COINCIDED WITH RESOLUTION OF INTERNECINE CNTS STRUGGLE AND EMERGENCE OF NEW, OUTWARD LOOKING LABOR LEADERS. PROSPECTS ARE NOW GOOD FOR SUBSTANTIALLY EXPANDED COOPERATION BETWEEN AALC AND CNTS. AALC'S SUPPORT FOR PAN-AFRICAN LABOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN SENEGAL IS WELCOMED BY UNION MOVEMENT, AS IS AALC HELP IN PROMOTING WIDER CNTS
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INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL HEALTH SCHEME AND IN OTHER AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

3. SINCE CNTS IS AFFILIATE OF GOVERNING PARTI SOCIALISTE, GOOD AALC RELATIONS WITH CNTS ARE TANTAMOUNT TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT. AALC'S RELATIONS WITH MISSION ARE ALSO EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, AND WE CONSIDER ITS

ACTIVITIES IN SENEGAL TO BE VALUABLE PART OF OVERALL
AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THIS COUNTRY.

4. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO SPEAK BRIEFLY AT
AALC STAFF CONFERENCE AND WOULD BE DELIGHTED
IF LABOR ADVISER SLEZAK IS ABLE TO BE IN DAKAR
FOR CONFERENCE.
COHEN

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Message Attributes

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